

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 COLOMB 00910 151002Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----151114Z 037077 /22

R 150841Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6901

S E C R E T COLOMBO 0910

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:XGDS-1  
TAGS: PFOR, CE  
SUBJECT: GSL REQUEST FOR TWO BELL CIVILIAN MODEL HELICOPTERS

REF: STATE 049844

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTTEL, I MET WITH THE SECRETARY,  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON MARCH 14 TO  
REPORT USG POSITION ON THE REQUESTED HELICOPTERS.

2. I EXPLAINED THAT ALTHOUGH WE WERE ENTIRELY SYMPATHETIC  
WITH MRS. BANDARANAIKE'S CONCERN FOR SAFE HELICOPTER  
TRANSPORTATION, AN EXHAUSTIVE REVIEW OF THE MATTER  
REVEALED THAT THE USG LACKS THE LEGISLATIVE AND FUNDING  
AUTHORITY TO GRANT THE REQUEST.

3. DURING MY EXPLANATION, I INDICATED THAT THE DEPARTMENT  
HAS NO DISCRETIONARY FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF HELICOPTERS.  
I FURTHER INFORMED HIM THAT CONGRESS HAS MANDATED THE  
PHASING OUT OF THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WHICH  
ELIMINATED THIS AVENUE AS A POSSIBLE SOURCE. I ALSO  
MENTIONED THAT AID WAS PROHIBITED FROM MAKING SUCH A GIFT.

4. OUR OFFER TO PUT GSL IN CONTACT WITH REPUTABLE  
HELICOPTER LEASING FIRMS WAS WELL RECEIVED. THE

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SECRETARY SAID HE COULD UNDERSTAND OUR POSITION AND  
THANKED US FOR CONSIDERING THE REQUEST. HE SAID HE  
WOULD REPORT OUR ANSWER TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND THAT  
HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH ME IF THEY DECIDE TO TALK WITH  
THE LEASING FIRMS.  
REED

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, HELICOPTERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 15-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977COLOMB00910  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770088-0598  
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**From:** COLOMBO  
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**Line Count:** 61  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 79fa80b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 49844  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3098291  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GSL REQUEST FOR TWO BELL CIVILIAN MODEL HELICOPTERS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, EAIR, CE, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009